



On the Radar

On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders.

In this edition, Te Awamutu Museum prepares to return to Roche Street, we update you on the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant and we share the 'what you need to know' about using social media in the pre-election period.

Save the date! Upcoming events and notable dates

A blue circle containing a white stylized icon of a playground structure, possibly a slide or climbing frame.

Leamington Playground re-opening

Saturday, July 5
10am-noon

Community Services

Te Awamutu Museum moving home



This information is provided from Waipa District Council
Te Awamutu Museum Education and Research Centre will be closed from Monday, July 14, for staff to start the move back to Roche Street.

The museum has been made safer for all visitors and staff following upgrades to seismically strengthen the building.

The project also includes a new research room, improved toilet facilities, new windows and roofing, better climate control, and more accessibility throughout the space.

Before the museum can reopen, staff are:

- working with mana whenua around the exhibition plans and the taonga they whakapapa to
- relocating to Roche Street and unpack all the contents
- setting up offices and technology
- organising the research room, shop and front desk
- reinstating storage areas
- unwrapping and condition assess objects
- setting up exhibition furniture, taonga and objects
- installing text panels, visuals and digital screens
- installing the new temporary Te Papa exhibition.

The museum is expected to reopen on Wednesday, October 22. Visitors will then be able to explore and connect with treasured taonga and artefacts once again, including Uenuku, and enjoy the exciting new exhibition from Te Papa - Rūaumoko: Restless Land.

Communications to inform groups and the public of the closure will start next week.

Hallys Lane toilet upgrade complete



The newly upgraded public toilet in Hallys Lane, Cambridge was re-opened yesterday.

The project was completed on time and within budget.

The previous toilet block served the community for about 30 years, and had reached the end of its useful life, resulting in increasing maintenance costs. The upgrade meets Council's commitment to maintain our public amenities, helping to meet current and future needs.

The upgraded facility has three unisex cubicles and one fully accessible unit with a changing table. There is also a new accessible carpark, and safer pedestrian access.

Libraries by the numbers



As we wrap up the financial year, the team has reviewed our library usage data — and the results tell a great story for library services across Waipā.

More than 4800 additional e-Items were issued this year, largely thanks to the introduction of the new Hoopla app last October. This platform has already made a strong impression, with borrowing steadily increasing as more community members discover its wide range of offerings. While e-Books and e-Audiobooks remain our most borrowed digital items, streaming TV series and movies are proving popular too.

When it comes to physical books, adult borrowing has seen the most significant growth, led by a strong increase in adult fiction. Children’s and teen collections also performed well, with graphic novels showing the biggest increase in that category. As expected, borrowing of non-book items — particularly DVDs — has declined as customers continue to transition to digital streaming.

These numbers reflect a healthy mix of traditional and digital use and show our libraries are evolving well to meet changing community needs.

Location/platform	Total issues	Increase from previous year
Cambridge	328,911	+24,097
Te Awamutu	172,023	+5,783
e-Items (Hoopla etc.)	11,536	+4,810
Total	512,470	+34,690

There are some interesting differences between the two branches. Cambridge sees more physical items borrowed, while Te Awamutu attracts more visitors overall — and they tend to stay longer (an average of 25.65 minutes compared to 18.74 minutes in Cambridge). This suggests Te Awamutu is not only a place to borrow books, but may also be more frequently used for internet access, support services, and social connection.

Other highlights

The libraries have also been delivering community service and driving innovation, including:

- Supporting hundreds of residents with CVs, job applications, housing, ticketing, and Government services
- Providing digital help and local info, including heritage queries
- Introducing Hoopla, Library of Things, Paws and Pages, Coding Club
- Celebrating Te Awamutu Library’s 150th anniversary
- Transitioning from SMS to email notifications
- Installing new shelving in both libraries and digital signage in Cambridge
- Adding a second Wriggle & Rhyme session in Cambridge

Park operations

Waipā’s cemeteries recorded an increase in interments over the past year, with rises in both ash and lawn burials. The figures are now tracking back to post-COVID levels, where a noticeable increase followed the national lockdowns.

Lawn burials continue to be the most common choice in Waipā. However, as more cemetery concept plans are brought to life, we expect a growing preference for ash interments through the addition of columbarium walls, ash walls, and memorial gardens.

Financial Year	23/24	24/25
Ash Interments	94	99
Lawn Interments	162	173

Sabor Café – Te Awamutu Events Centre

We’ve received news from our facility partners Waipā Community Facility Trust that Sabor Café, who operate out of the Te Awamutu Events Centre, have gone into liquidation. They were informed by insolvency agency Khov Jones Ltd on Wednesday afternoon. We will continue to work with Go Waipā CEO, Matt Horne, regarding potential next steps and updates.

The café is independent from the remainder of the facility, which continues to operate as normal.

Waters

Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant on track



The project team has completed a full programme review, confirming that construction is on track to be largely completed by the end of November. Dry commissioning and individual system testing will begin in December, alongside final tidy-up and finishing works.

To help keep everyone informed, we're launching a monthly e-newsletter sharing updates on the plant, project milestones, and behind-the-scenes insights.

As the transition from the old to the new plant moves closer, the Water Services Team has been reviewing how tankered wastewater is received and managed at the site.

The new plant is a highly-advanced treatment facility that relies on tightly controlled biological processes to meet the high standards required by Council's discharge consent. Tankered wastewater — while making up just 1.6 per cent of daily volume — accounts for around 20 per cent of the total daily load and can contain substances that pose risks to these sensitive processes.

To help manage these risks, the Water Services Team has engaged Pattle Delamore Partners (PDP) to review and recommend future trade waste consent and bylaw limits. PDP has proposed:

- A daily volume cap of 100m³ for tankered wastewater
- Changes to limits for biological oxygen demand, as well as total nitrogen, phosphorus, fats, oils and grease.

These proposed restrictions may present challenges for some of our tankered waste operators — including the need to invest in pre-treatment and storage — yet they are essential for protecting the performance and long-term sustainability of the new treatment plant.

Next steps are for Council to engage with the tankered waste industry to educate and discuss these changes, followed by a review of the Wastewater and Trade Waste Bylaw.

Meanwhile, the generator was delivered to site this week (pictured above) and is now in place outside the electrical distribution building. This building houses the motor control centre, which powers critical components including pumps, blowers, and other electrical systems. The generator will act as a backup power source in the event of a mains outage, ensuring treatment operations can continue uninterrupted.

Transport



The substantial work is largely wound up for the winter, with the Jacobs Street resurfacing by the Fresh Choice supermarket in Te Awamutu the last site done. Road marking will be the final stage of this work.

Pedestrians may notice some activity under the town end of the Victoria Bridge from Monday, July 7, for three nights, as we complete final repairs to the footpath supports after a vehicle crash damaged the handrails in November last year. We are putting out some public communications to let people know about this.

This leaves basic maintenance activities for the next two months until the weather starts to improve and we can get back into the road repair and maintenance season.

Meanwhile, Waipā transportation and planning staff have been working with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi on the local road requirements for the Cambridge to Piarere expressway extension. The first stage, from the end of the expressway to Karāpiro Road, is in the detailed design phase, and Waipā staff are guiding the design of the new local roads that will run parallel to the expressway and provide local connections and property access.

When this first part of the project is finished, Waipā District Council will gain 11km of new local road and 2.5km of shared path! The map below shows what this might look like.



The indicative alignment for the proposed expressway broadly follows the existing SH1, and from Karāpiro Road deviates to a new corridor approximately 1km north of the existing SH1.

Communications and engagement

Social media in the pre-election period



**If you don't enrol,
someone else decides.**

Enrol now

Make sure you're enrolled or
update your details today.

vote.nz



With the official pre-election period kicking off next Friday, July 11, it's timely to remind you about the rules and protocols regarding social media during the three months leading up to Election Day.

As you may be already aware, there are rules about using council resources for election purposes, and in particular, the council (including staff) is not allowed to promote – or be seen as promoting – any candidate, or to promote any Council position on a poll (such as this year's poll relating to Māori wards).

During the pre-election period, we can't use our website, or any public material such as our social media channels, signage and posters, to raise the profile of any current Elected Member or any other candidate.

This information is provided from Waipa District Council

This means our Council social media channels will unlike/unfollow all candidate social media channels by the start of the pre-election period. Candidates are not allowed to post or comment on council pages, tag us or react to posts (thumbs up, love heart etc).

Candidates cannot use council resources for re-election purposes, including any council buildings, or photos taken by council staff.

Our social media channels will remain neutral at all times. We will promote elections and the importance of voting but will not associate these posts with any candidates.

Please note that for the period of the election:

- Any campaign-related material (including posts related to nominations and candidacy) will be removed.
- You may not reply to comments or posts on Council's social media channels encouraging people to like or follow your social media accounts.
- You may not rate, review, check-in or tag the Council's social media channels in your own posts or comments.

[You can find the full social media guidelines for candidates at this link.](#)

Strategy

Proposed Te Awamutu waste-to-energy plant consent application: Board of Inquiry



The hearing for the applications started on Monday, June 16, at the FMG Stadium in Hamilton and is scheduled to conclude today.

A three-person independent Board of Inquiry is hearing submissions both online and in person. The hearing process is to help ensure the Board is fully informed before a decision is made on the applications, which is due on Monday, August 18.

The Board undertook a site visit on Wednesday, June 18 and Waipā District Council was represented at the hearing on Thursday, June 26. Council spoke to the original submission submitted in December after Council approval.

Wendy Embling of Simpson Grierson represented Council as legal counsel and further evidence on community sentiment was given by Mayor Susan, planning by Peter Skilton and social impact by Robert Quigley.

There is no video available of the hearing but the transcripts can be found on the [EPA website](#).

Legislation changes

We actively monitor the changes to legislation being proposed by Central Government, and want to keep Elected Members across the latest changes, submissions and directions.

The table below lists the changes that have occurred over the last fortnight.

Item Name	Description	Status comments
Updated		
Back to basics LG reform package - Local Government Systems Improvements Bill	<p>Proposes to change the purpose of LGA to "to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses, therefore supporting local economic growth and development."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rate-pegging• More efficient LTP process• Code of conduct for EMs• Will not include bylaws and infringements	<p>Expected to land on or around Tuesday, July 8 with a first reading in the week of July 14.</p>

Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill	<p>About this change process:</p> <p>This Bill will change the Resource Management Act (RMA). The purpose of the Bill is to progress government priorities, including infrastructure and energy, housing growth, farming and the primary sector, and various systems improvements.</p> <p>Some of the key changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- specifying default maximum time frames for consent processing and establishing default consent durations for renewable energy and infrastructure consents- changing Part 9A of the RMA to allow farming and primary industry organisations to deliver farm plan certification and audit services- allowing a National Environmental Statement to treat applications to change or cancel consent conditions for aquaculture activities as applications for a resource consent for a controlled activity or a restricted discretionary activity- introducing new tools for councils to manage natural hazards and emergency events- various systems improvements, including increasing penalties, removing insurance against penalties, and allowing cost recovery for councils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submitted.• Changes expected to the Bill at the Committee of the Whole House stage.
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[Proposed land transport rules reform](#)

The Government is proposing comprehensive reform of the land transport rules through a Land Transport Rules Reform Programme.

The programme includes seven workstreams:

- considering additional safety requirements for vehicle imports
- reviewing WOF/COF frequency and inspection requirements for light vehicles
- simplifying heavy vehicle driver licencing, weight thresholds, and freight permitting
- allowing digital options for driver licences, WOF/COF /registration labels, and regulatory notices
- changing the rules on lane use and traffic control devices
- overhauling the vehicle regulatory system, including streamlining recognition of overseas standards
- reducing the frequency of vintage vehicle and motorhome WOF and COF inspections (this was announced earlier this year, and consultation is complete).

Public consultation will take place in stages, starting in October this year.

Staff recommendation – keep a watching brief, as this is likely to impact Council.

Media releases

- [July 4: Final repairs to Victoria Bridge due next week](#)
- [July 4: Your Council, Your Call: Waipā nominations open today](#)
- [July 4: Under and over: another key infrastructure step for growth corridor](#)
- [July 3: Team member earns national recognition for infrastructure expertise](#)
- [July 2: Get those tails wagging and register your dog](#)
- [July 1: Let’s move forward on Cambridge Connections together, says Waipā Mayor](#)
- [June 27: Play, kai and celebrate: Leamington Domain’s new playground!](#)
- [June 24: Peace roses in a living memorial at Te Awamutu’s War Memorial Park](#)
- [June 24: Council in unenviable position as it looks to adopt Long Term Plan](#)

Media clippings

['Discrepancies, contradictions, false claims': Experts clash over Waikato waste-to-energy plant'](#)

The Press NZ • Rob Stock • Internet • 29 Jun 2025, 5:21 am

[Waikato Water - the region's next billion-dollar company](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Internet • 28 Jun 2025, 5:07 am

[Small town rallies to find nearly \\$1 million for skate park](#)

Waikato Times • Paora Manuel • Internet • 27 Jun 2025, 5:08 am

[Almost all councils on board for Waikato Water Done Well](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Internet • 26 Jun 2025, 5:09 am

[Building a waste-to-energy plant near a dairy factory 'lunacy', hearing told](#)

Waikato Times • Rob Stock • Internet • 26 Jun 2025, 5:45 am

[Asbestos spill concerns](#)

Waikato Business News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 26 Jun 2025, 7:43 am

[Bish: a man with the X-factor](#)

Te Awamutu News • Viv Posselt • Internet • 26 Jun 2025, 10:03 am

[Waharoa's Matariki opening](#)

kingcountrynews.co.nz • Internet • 26 Jun 2025, 12:46 pm

[A gateway to the future](#)

Cambridge News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 26 Jun 2025, 6:00 am

[More questions on plant plan](#)

Cambridge News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 26 Jun 2025, 2:03 pm

[Waste plant would burn plastic and tyres](#)

Cambridge Edition • Matthew Martin • Newspaper • 25 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Rates rise for 2025/26](#)

Waikato Times • Newspaper • 25 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[News in brief](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 25 Jun 2025, 6:04 pm

[A living memorial](#)

Te Awamutu News • Internet • 24 Jun 2025, 4:21 pm

[Burning questions](#)

Listener • ANDREA GRAVES • Magazine • 21 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Waipā unveils \\$45m substation boost](#)

Waikato Herald • Newspaper • 20 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Pirongia tree tribute](#)

King Country News • Chris Gardner • Newspaper • 19 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Paewira hearings underway](#)

kingcountrynews.co.nz • Internet • 19 Jun 2025, 7:42 am

[Board wants charge review](#)

kingcountrynews.co.nz • Internet • 19 Jun 2025, 7:49 am

[In and out...international flights return](#)

Waikato Business News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 19 Jun 2025, 9:06 am

[Long term plan: the background](#)

Te Awamutu News • Susan O Regan • Internet • 19 Jun 2025, 6:00 am

[Mayor regrets plan pause](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 19 Jun 2025, 6:05 am

[More candidates show hand](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 19 Jun 2025, 10:01 am

[Accord call on industrial land](#)

Te Awamutu News • Mary Anne Gill • Internet • 19 Jun 2025, 11:02 am

[Kokako's flight is delayed](#)

Te Awamutu News • Chris Gardner • Internet • 19 Jun 2025, 2:04 pm

[New plans for waste to energy plant emerge during hearings](#)

Waikato Times • Matthew Martin • Internet • 18 Jun 2025, 5:07 am

[Waipā wins big with boost to funding for local events](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 18 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

[Most oppose waste-to-energy plant](#)

Cambridge Edition • Newspaper • 18 Jun 2025, 12:00 am

